

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1. (Previously presented) A method for isolating and culturing mesenchymal stem cells from umbilical cord blood, comprising the steps of:

adding an anti-coagulant to pure umbilical cord blood obtained within 24 hours after parturition;

diluting the resulting mixture of the anti-coagulant and umbilical cord blood with an alpha-minimum essential medium (aMEM), followed by centrifugation to harvest monocytes; and

subjecting the obtained monocytes into suspension culture in the aMEM medium containing Stem Cell Factor, GM-CSF (granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor), G-CSF (granulocyte colony-stimulating factor), IL-3 (interleukin-3), and IL-6 (interleukin-6).

Claim 2. (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the umbilical cord blood is diluted with 2-fold volume of the aMEM medium, overlapped on Ficoll-Hypaque and subjected to centrifugation so as to harvest monocytes.

Claim 3. (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein aMEM medium for culturing monocytes further comprises at least one of an antibiotic, an anti-fungal, glutamine and fetal bovine serum.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein the aMEM for culturing monocytes further comprises an antibiotic, an anti-fungal agent, glutamine and fetal bovine serum.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the umbilical cord blood has a volume of more than 45 ml per unit.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the antibiotic is selected from penicillin G, streptomycin sulfate, or a combination thereof.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the antifungal agent is amphotericin B.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the isolated mesenchymal stem cells are negative for CD14, CD34, CD45 indicators and are positive for SH2, SH3, CD29, CD44, CD90, and CD166 indicators.